Does He Remember Me?

A Story About Trusting Allah

Bonus story inside!

Written by: Binte Zehra Naqvi | Illustrated by: Safah Sheikh

Kisa Kids Publications | Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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A Story About Trusting Allah

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): The pen of a writer is mightier than the blood of a martyr.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank Sisters Binte Zehra, Safah Sheikh, Fatima Hussain, Nida Syed, Sabika Mithani, and Abeda Khimji.

May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
Marḥūmah Naeema Kazimi & Sadaf Mannan

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ(medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	j
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y
ة	h (without iḍāfah)
ة	t (with iḍāfah)

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū
آ	ʾā (medial form)

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of *ʿulamāʾ* and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Does He Remember Me?* is to remind our children to always trust that Allah is All-Aware of their needs and He is the Provider and Nourisher. He loves His creation more than we can ever comprehend, and we can be certain that He is always taking care of us. This instills in our children *tawakkul*, trust in Allah. In fact, not only is Allah aware of our physical needs but also our spiritual needs and provides for them both. Having *tawakkul* naturally brings about inner strength and confidence in being able to tackle any difficulty that comes our way. We know full well that Allah is there for us and trust Him, as is reflected by the Prophets in this book, Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) and Prophet Mūsā (ʿa). Another natural response to *tawakkul* is *ḥamd*, which can be seen in the tiny creation of Allah, the worm who is reciting *duʿā* and thanking Allah, the Provider. May these values be inculcated in our children, our community and certainly, in ourselves. We hope that you and your children will enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, *inshāʾAllāh*.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

It was a beautiful and serene afternoon at the sea.

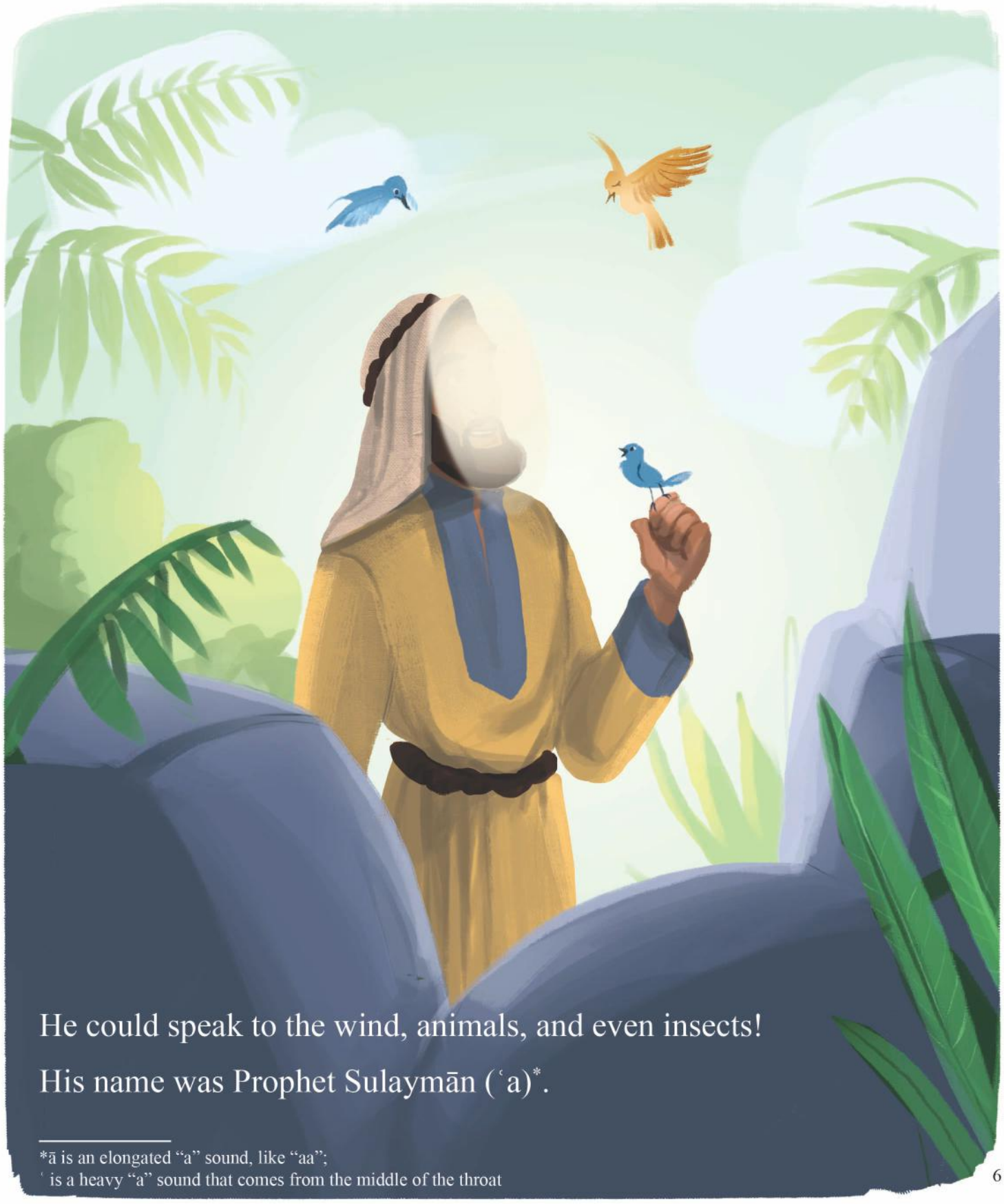
As the sun rose up to its peak, turning the water a magnificent shade of blue, green, and gold like a hidden treasure, there was a slight stir.

It seemed like a small disruption to what was otherwise a calm and peaceful day.

It would have gone unnoticed were it not for the man sitting right by the water.

This man was not just *any* man—he was a Prophet of Allah.

With all the responsibilities that came with this great and lofty position, he was also given a special gift.

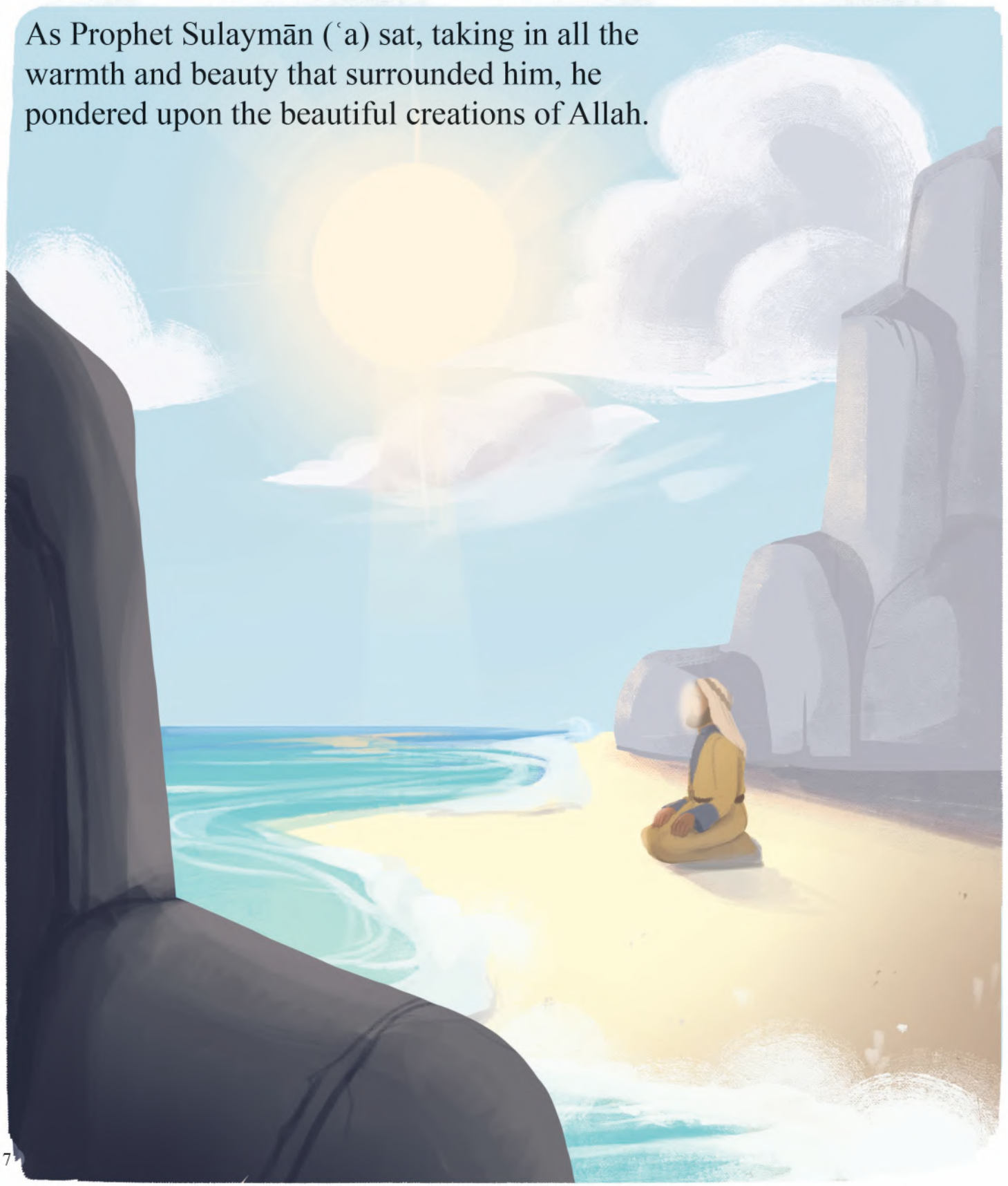


He could speak to the wind, animals, and even insects!

His name was Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa)*.

*ā is an elongated "a" sound, like "aa";
ʿ is a heavy "a" sound that comes from the middle of the throat

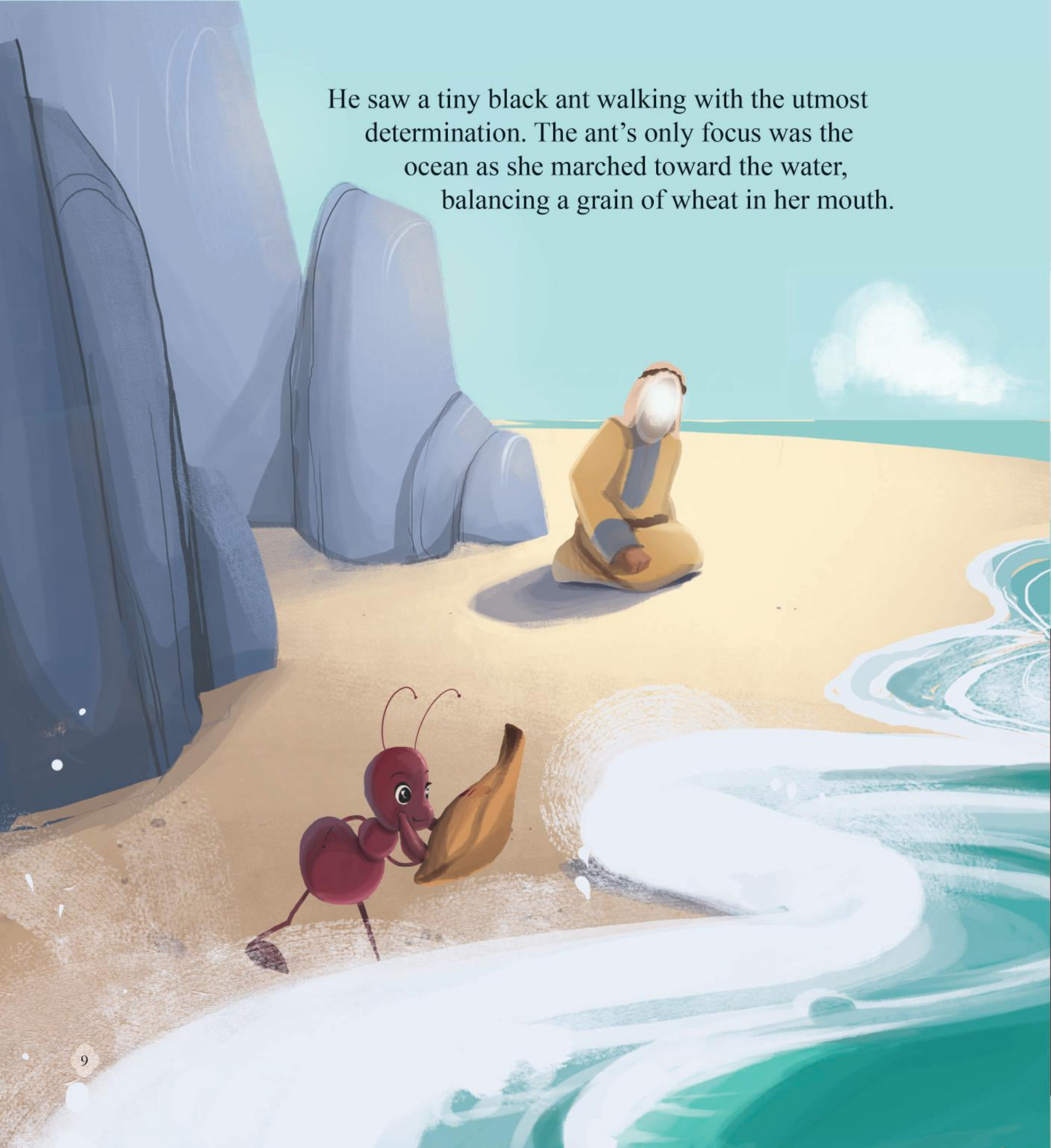
As Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) sat, taking in all the warmth and beauty that surrounded him, he pondered upon the beautiful creations of Allah.



Just then,

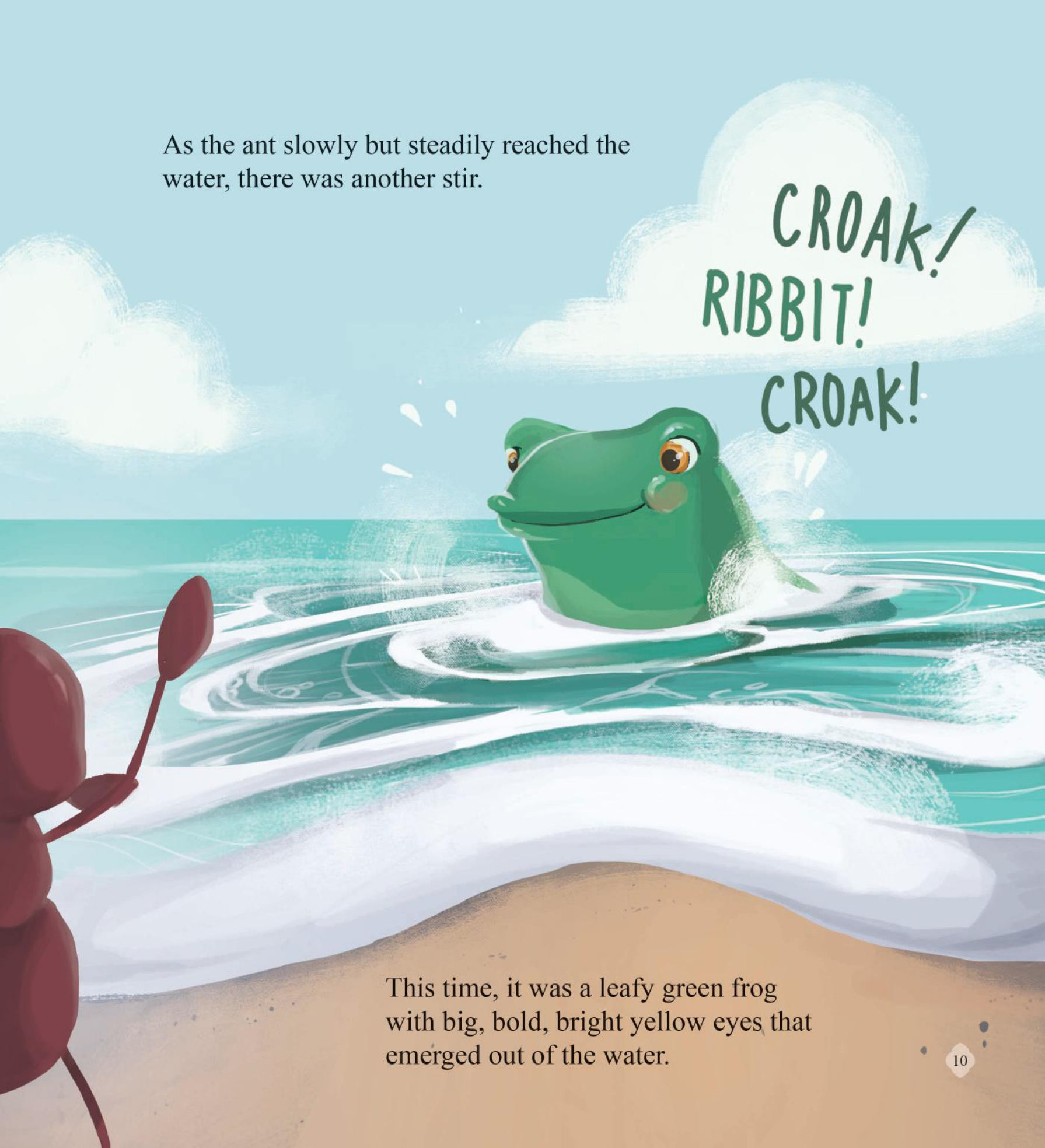
Swish, Swish!

He noticed something moving near the ocean.



He saw a tiny black ant walking with the utmost determination. The ant's only focus was the ocean as she marched toward the water, balancing a grain of wheat in her mouth.

As the ant slowly but steadily reached the water, there was another stir.



This time, it was a leafy green frog with big, bold, bright yellow eyes that emerged out of the water.

Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) watched quietly as the frog opened his mouth and...
SNAP!

The frog closed his mouth as soon as the ant entered it. Then, he disappeared back into the ocean.

Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) was amazed. *What were these little creations of Allah up to?!* He wondered.

More questions came flooding into his mind:

Why did the ant go inside the mouth of the frog?

Where was the frog going?

What was the frog going to do inside the water?

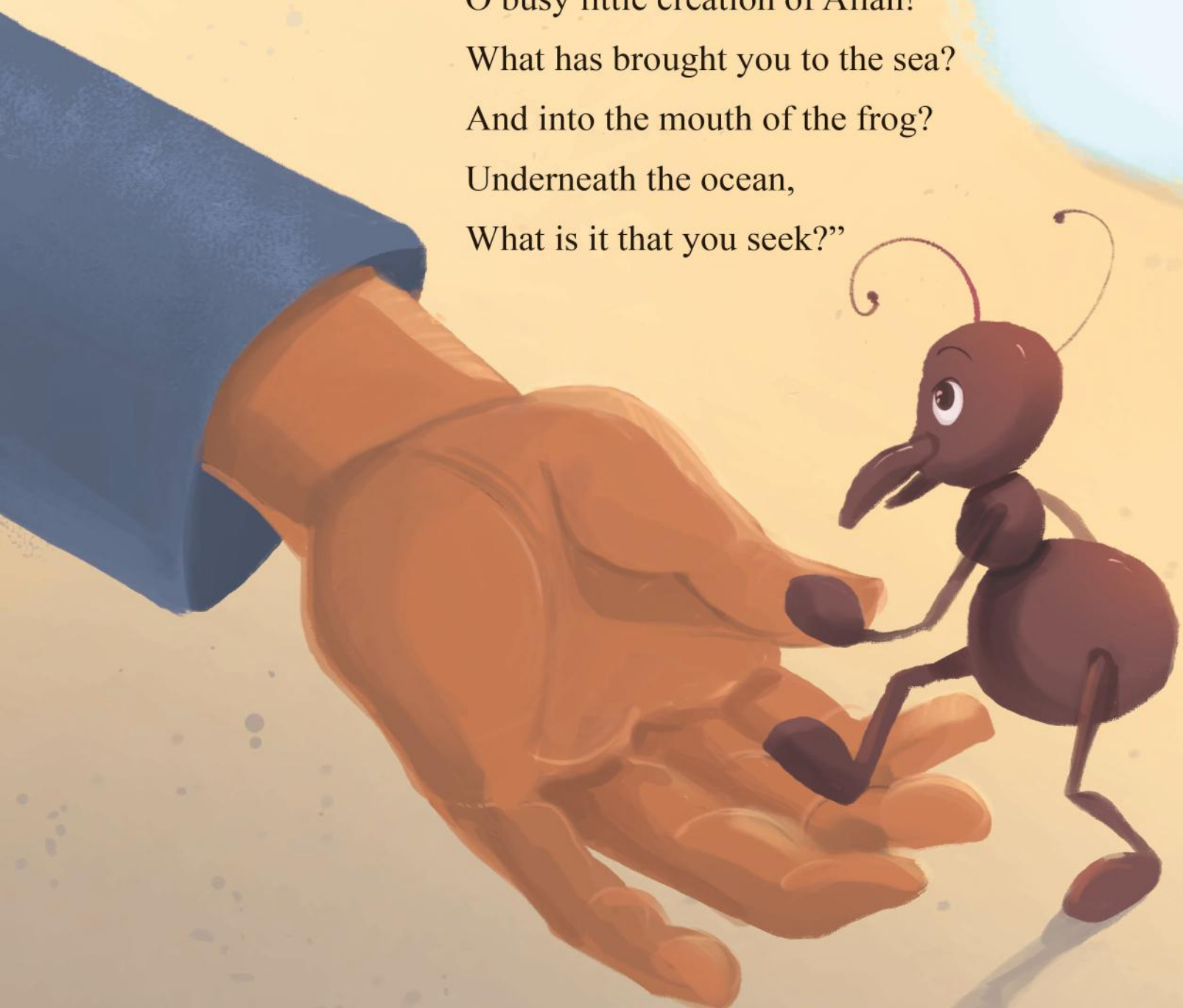
Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) prayed to Allah to show him the reason behind this peculiar interaction between the ant and the frog.

Just then, he saw something green emerging out of the ocean again. It was the same frog that had just gone in!

Surprisingly, it was not only the frog that returned, but the ant, too, came back! Only this time, she was not carrying the grain of wheat like before.

Now, Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) used his special gift to ask the ant:

"Salāmun ʿalaykum
O busy little creation of Allah!
What has brought you to the sea?
And into the mouth of the frog?
Underneath the ocean,
What is it that you seek?"

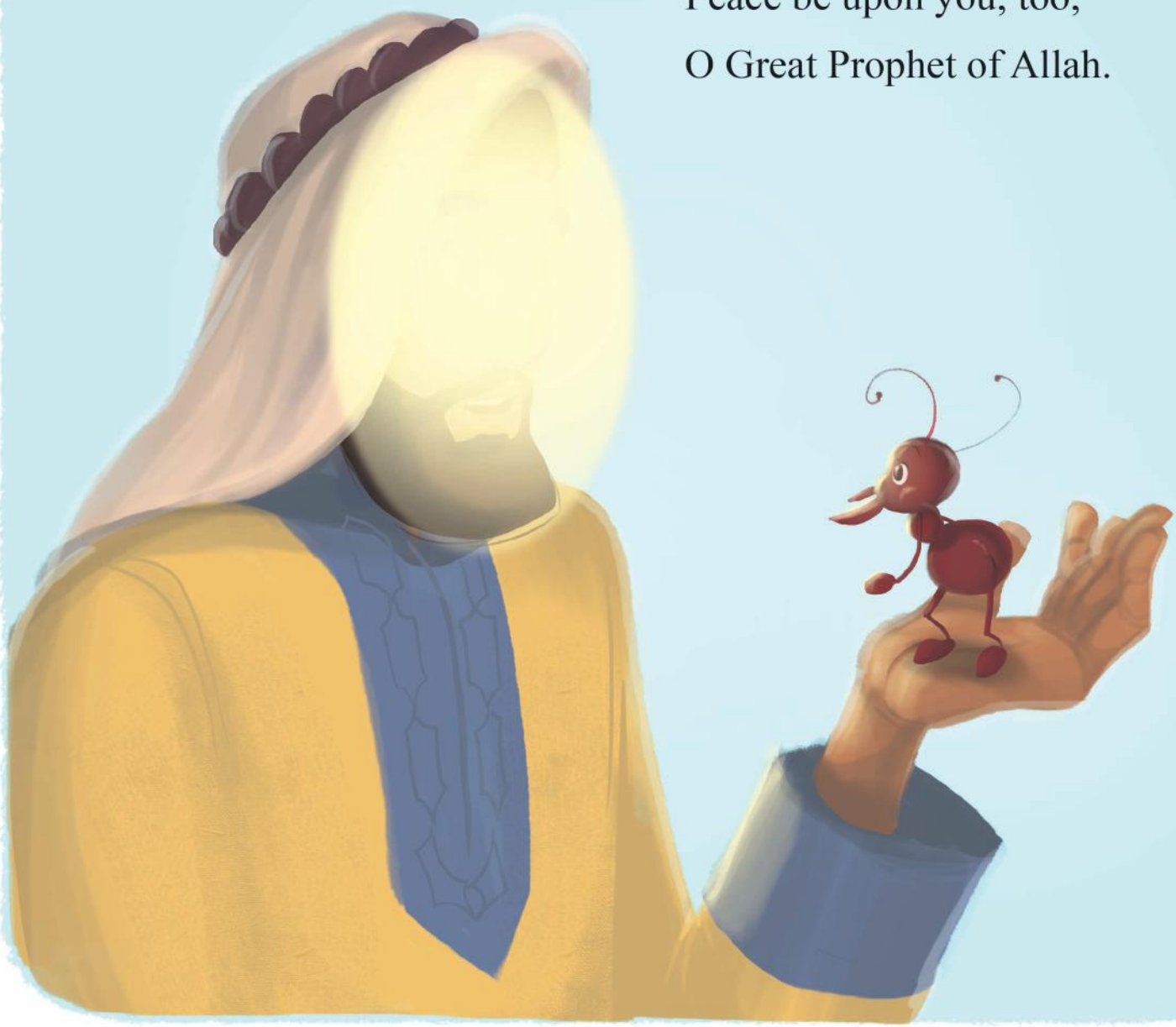


The tiny, little black ant looked up to Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) and replied:

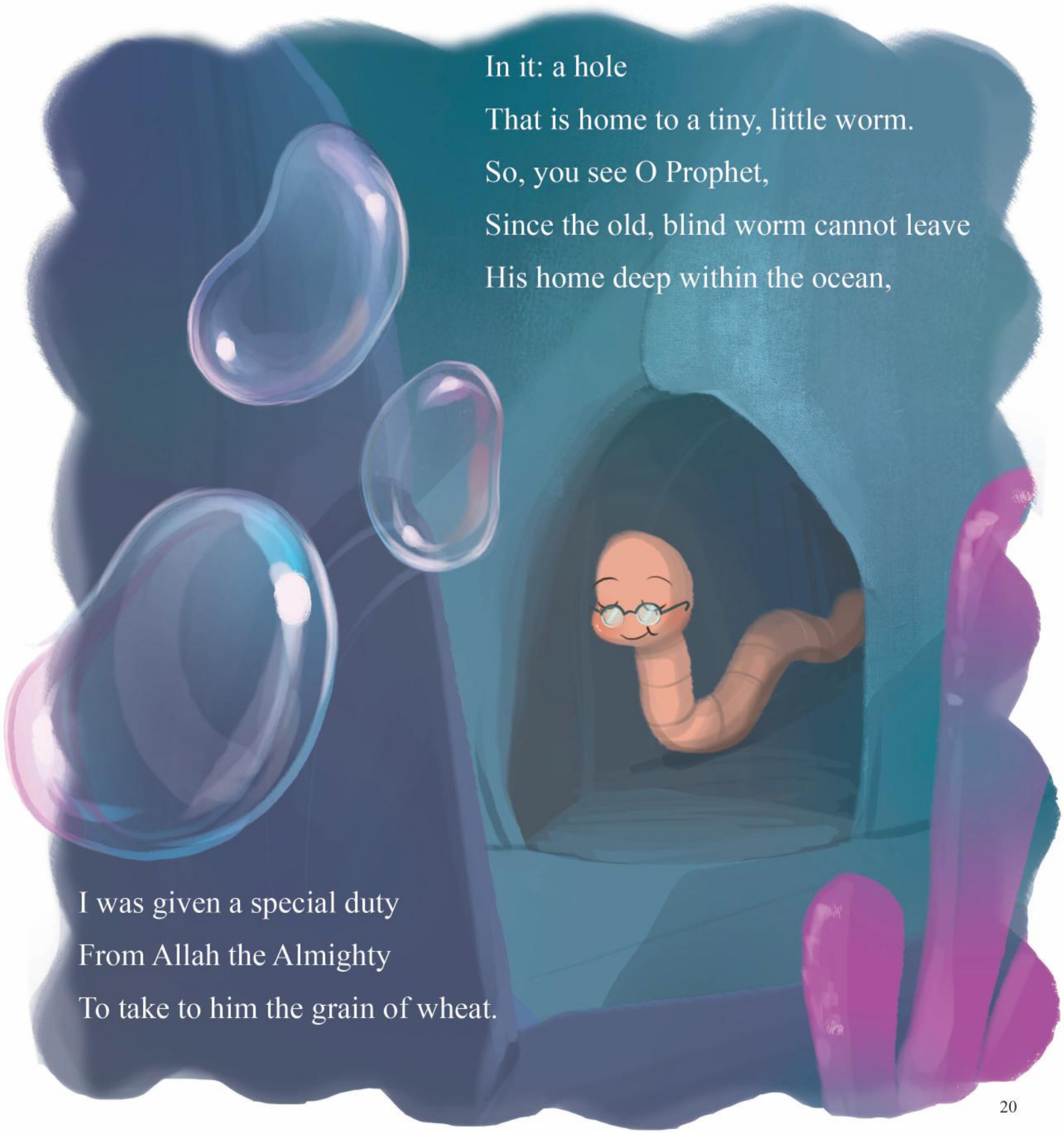
Wa ʿalaykum salām!

Peace be upon you, too,

O Great Prophet of Allah.

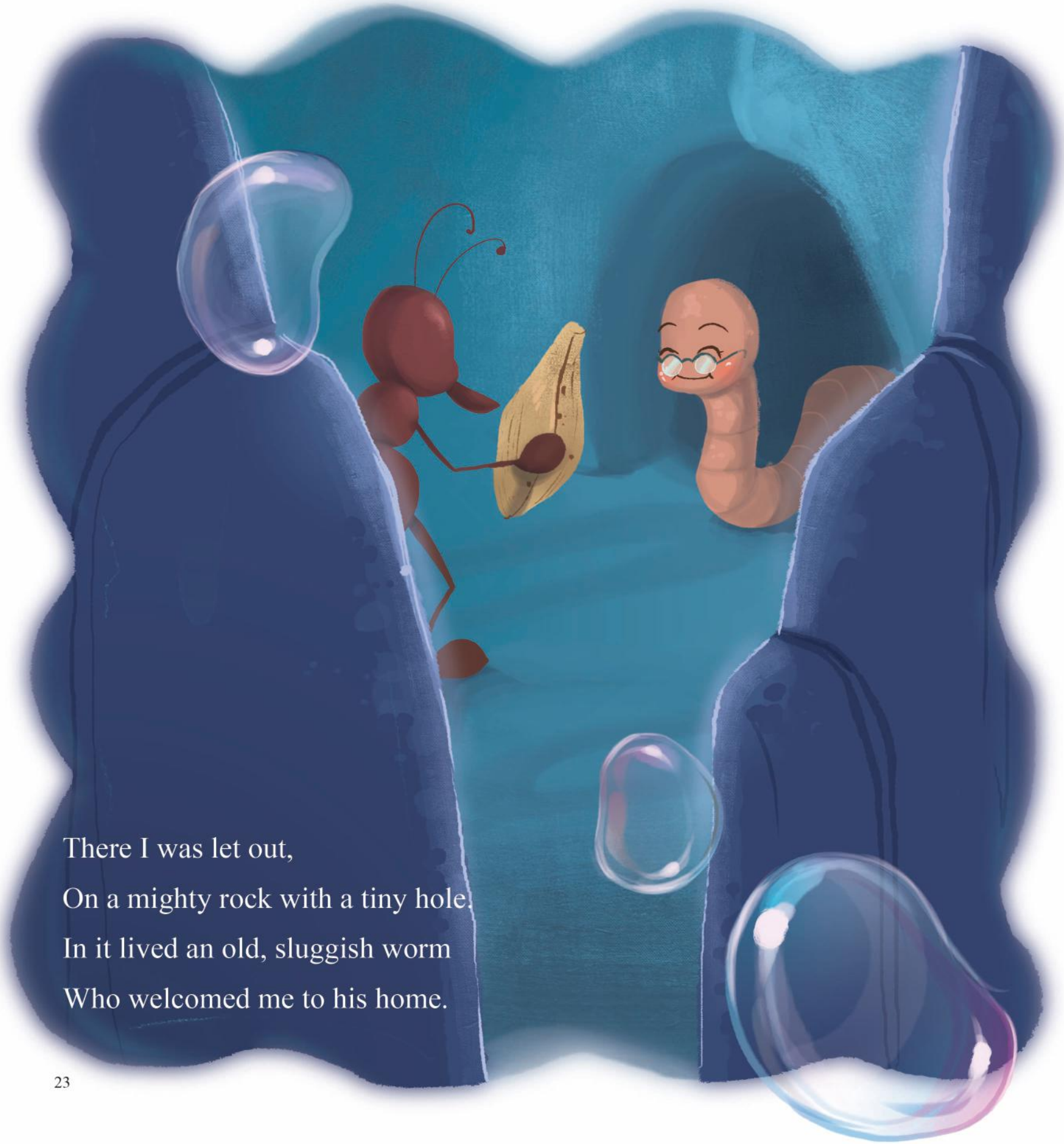


Deep, deep down in the ocean,
Where the water meets the ground,
A rock is found.


In it: a hole
That is home to a tiny, little worm.
So, you see O Prophet,
Since the old, blind worm cannot leave
His home deep within the ocean,
I was given a special duty
From Allah the Almighty
To take to him the grain of wheat.

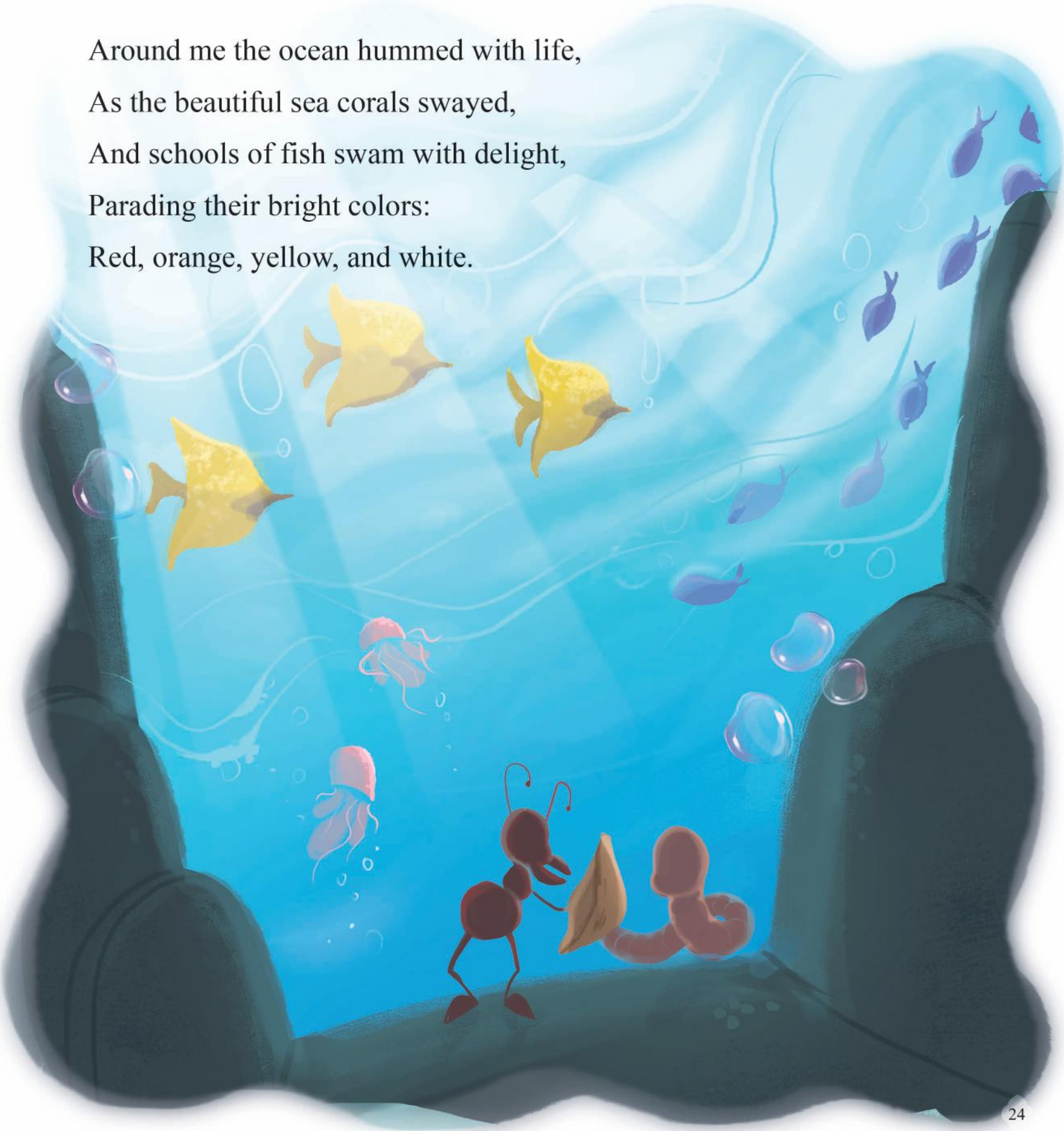
Into the mouth of the frog I went,
His tongue so soft, sticky and gooey,
Covering me all around, oh so slimy!

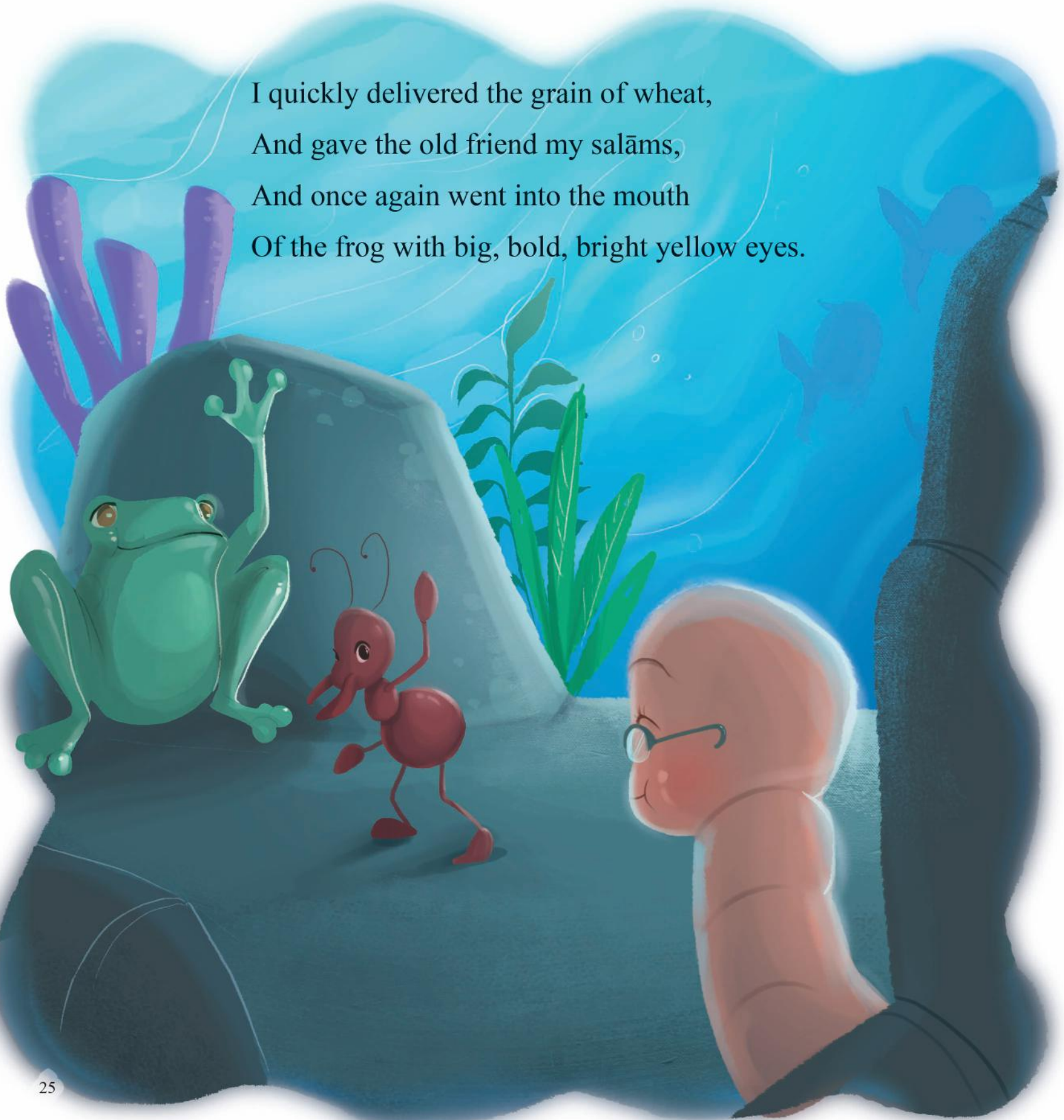
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN,
The frog swam with all his might.
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN!
He went until the end was in sight.



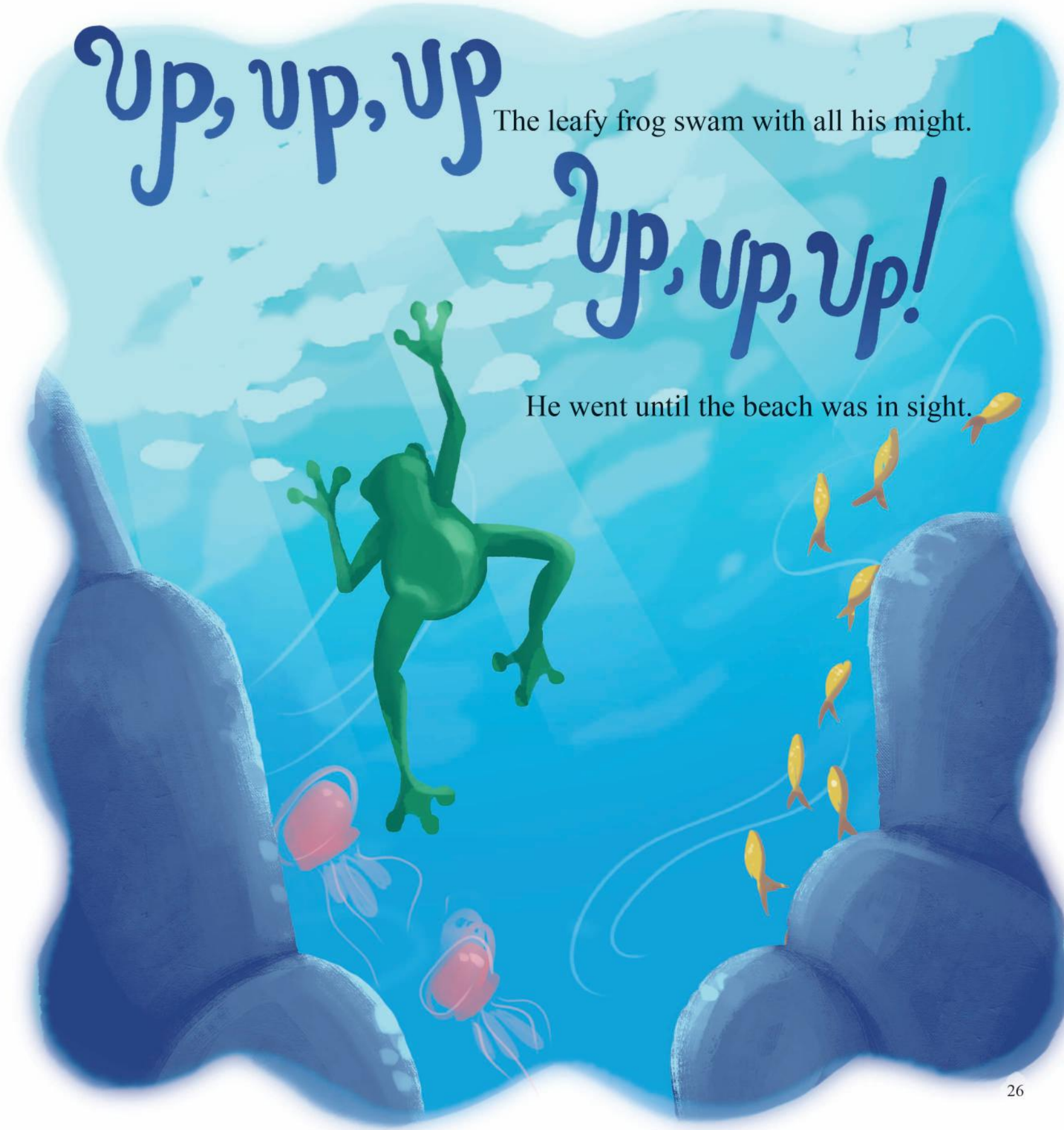
There I was let out,
On a mighty rock with a tiny hole.
In it lived an old, sluggish worm
Who welcomed me to his home.

Around me the ocean hummed with life,
As the beautiful sea corals swayed,
And schools of fish swam with delight,
Parading their bright colors:
Red, orange, yellow, and white.





I quickly delivered the grain of wheat,
And gave the old friend my salāms,
And once again went into the mouth
Of the frog with big, bold, bright yellow eyes.


Up, up, up
The leafy frog swam with all his might.
Up, up, up!
He went until the beach was in sight.

There he dropped me off

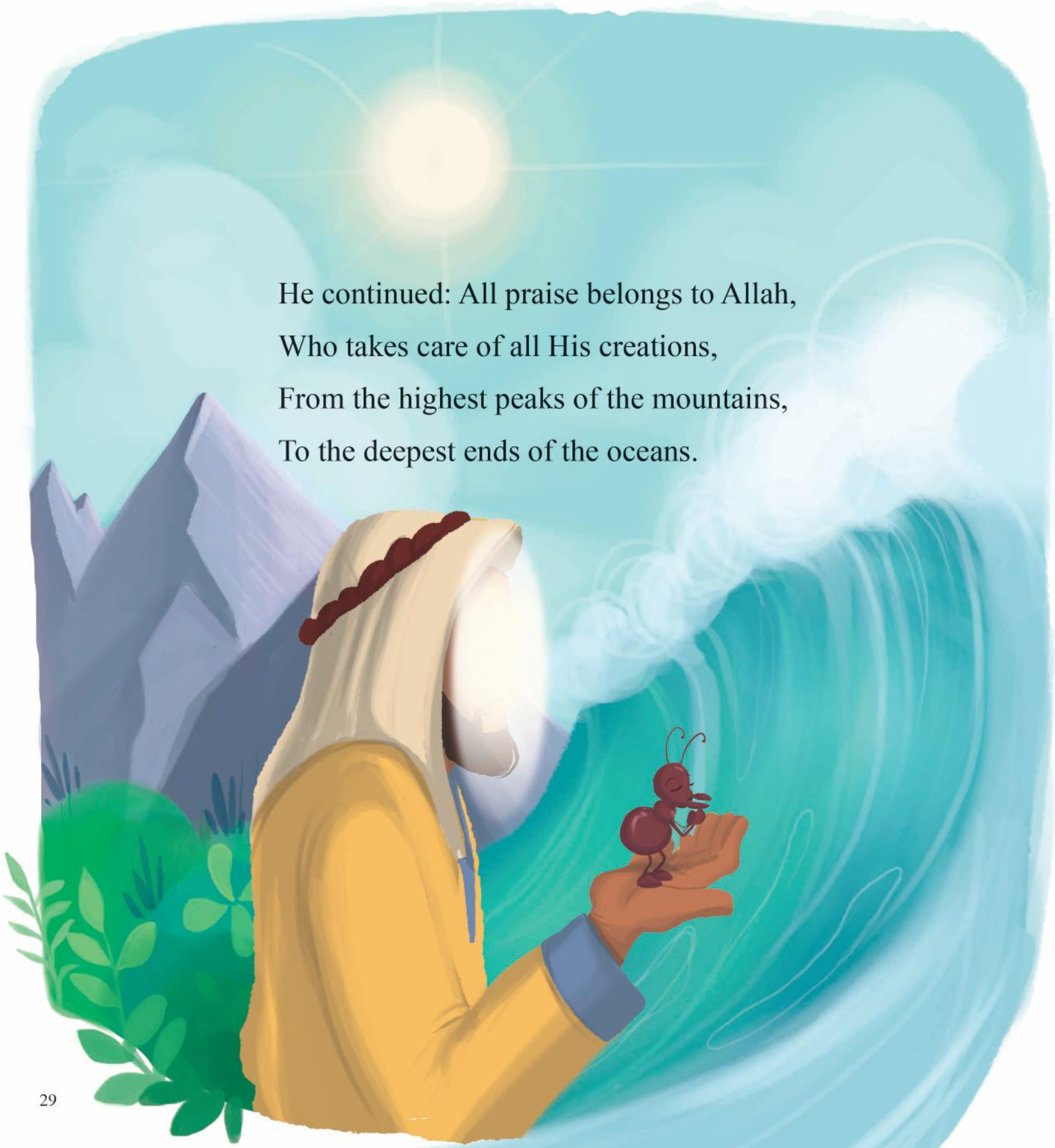
On the hot, dry sand, at the seaside.

We thanked each other and said:

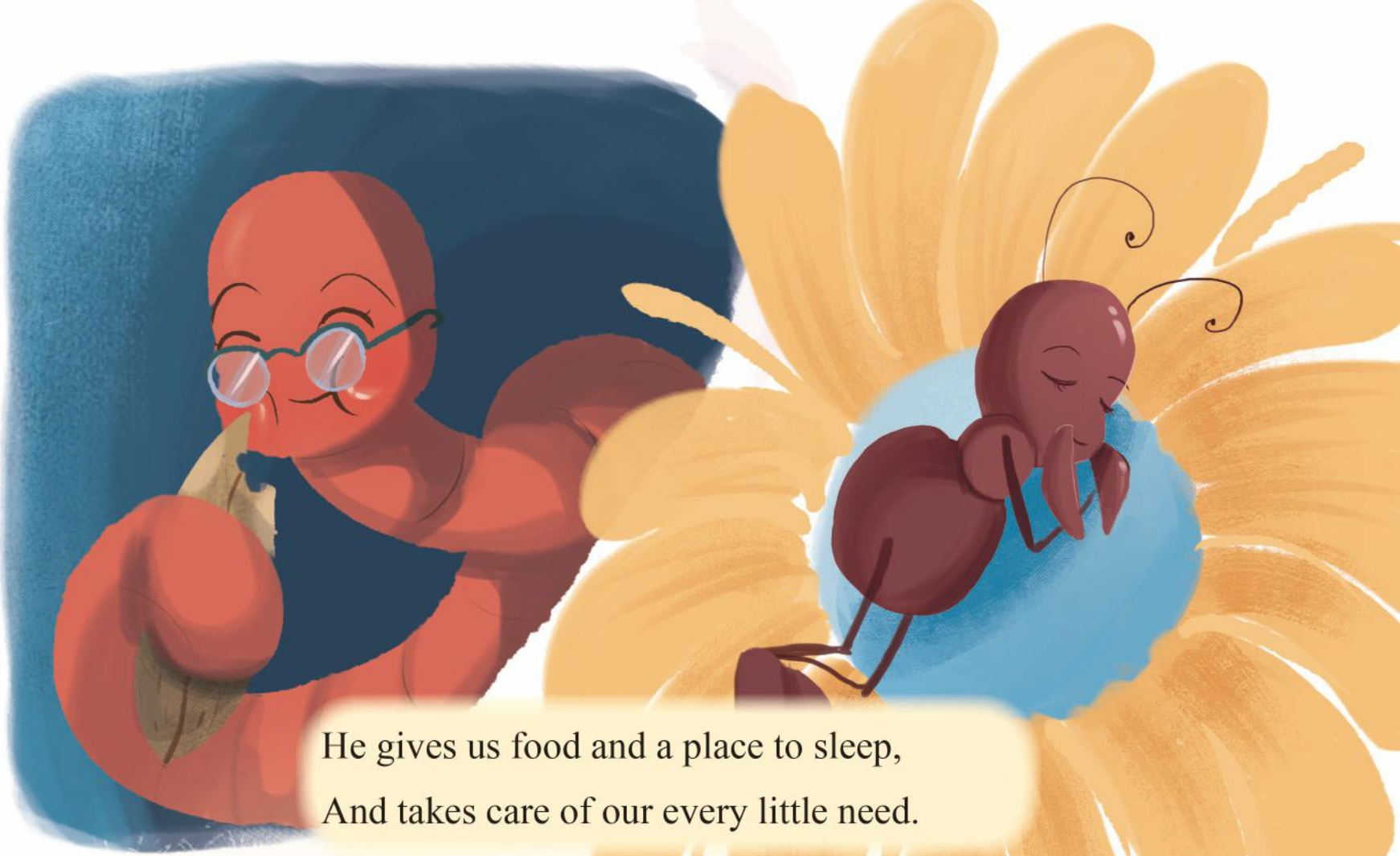
*ī is an elongated "e" sound, like "ee"

“Subḥānallāh!”* Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) exclaimed.

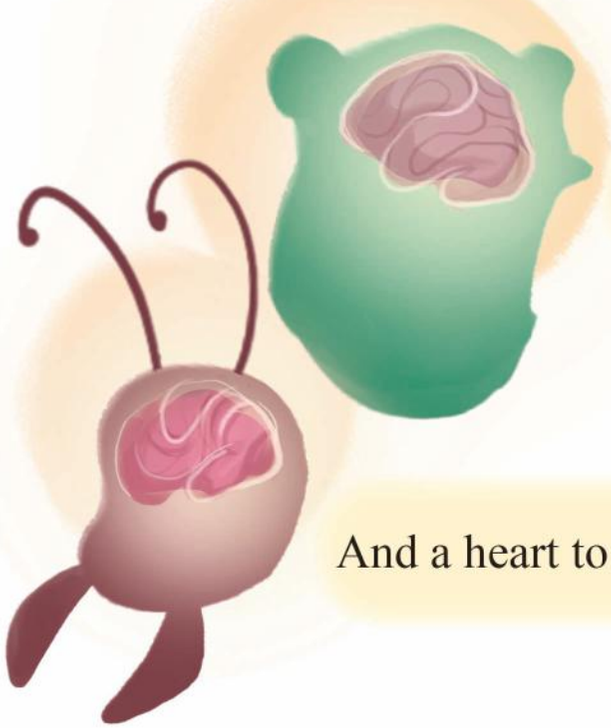
*ḥ is a heavy “ha” sound that comes from the middle of the throat



He continued: All praise belongs to Allah,
Who takes care of all His creations,
From the highest peaks of the mountains,
To the deepest ends of the oceans.



He gives us food and a place to sleep,
And takes care of our every little need.



He has given us a brain
to learn and grow,

And a heart to love the people we know.

Alḥamdulillāhi rabbil ʿālamīn—

All praise belongs to the One,

Who not for a second,

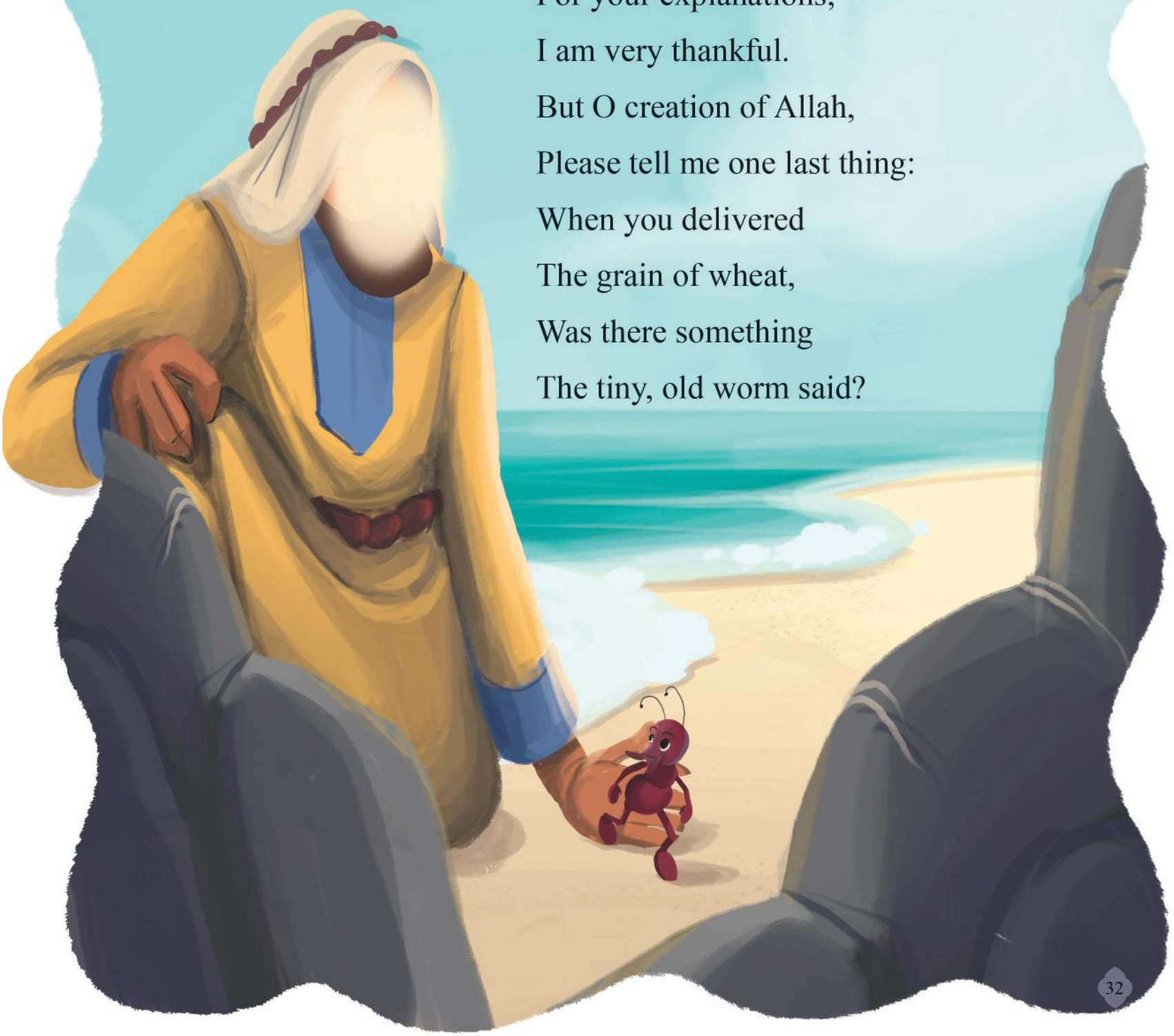
Not even for a moment,

Has ever left us alone!

Then, tears of gratitude fell from Prophet Sulaymān's eyes like twinkling stars in the night sky.

He wanted to know one last thing from the ant, so he asked:

For your explanations,
I am very thankful.
But O creation of Allah,
Please tell me one last thing:
When you delivered
The grain of wheat,
Was there something
The tiny, old worm said?

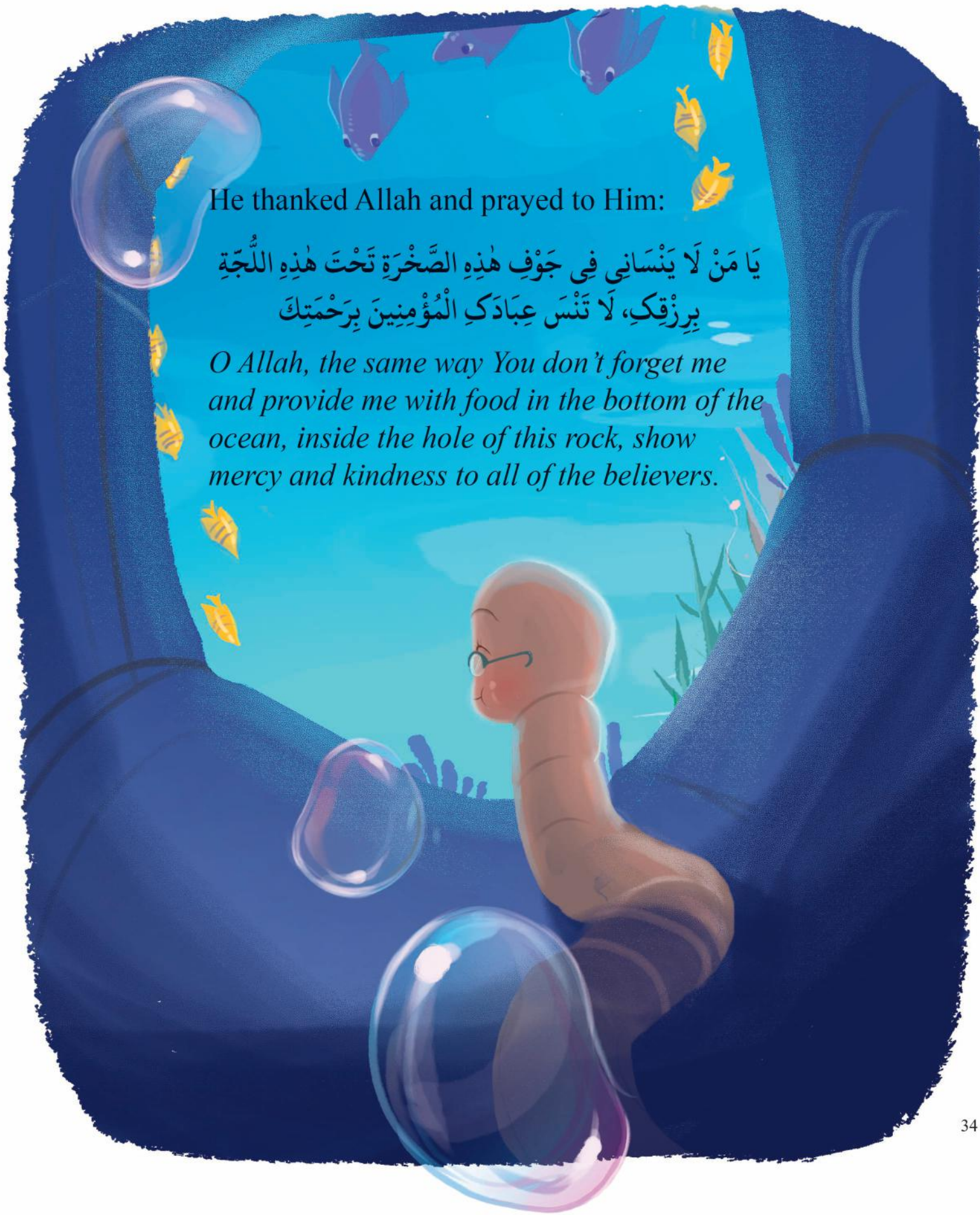


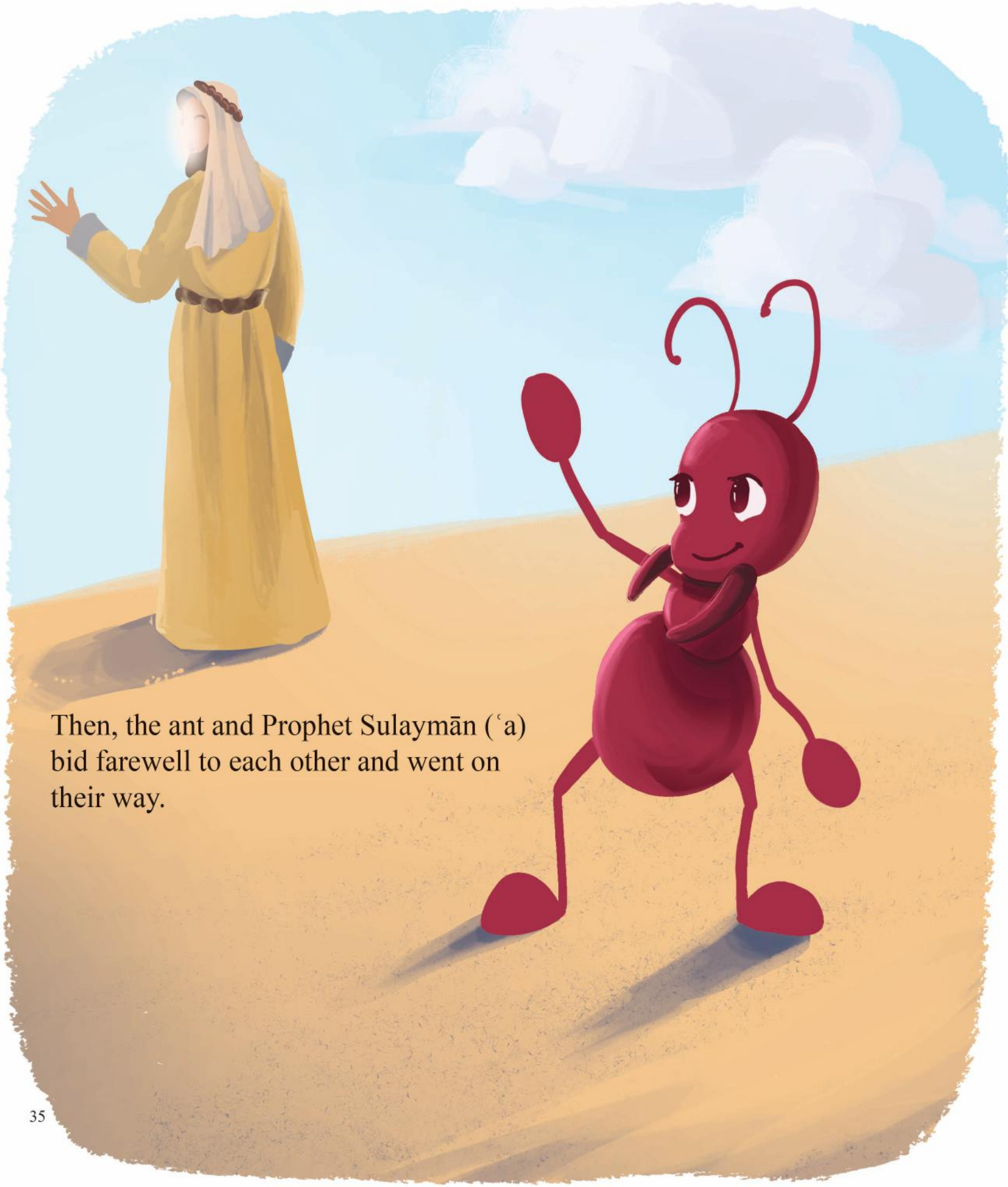
The ant quickly replied back:

Oh, yes! He did, he did.

He said beautiful words,

Some beautiful words indeed!


He thanked Allah and prayed to Him:
يَا مَنْ لَا يَنْسَانِي فِي جَوْفِ هٰذِهِ الصَّخْرَةِ تَحْتَ هٰذِهِ اللُّجَّةِ
بِرِزْقِكِ، لَا تَنْسَ عِبَادَكِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ
O Allah, the same way You don't forget me and provide me with food in the bottom of the ocean, inside the hole of this rock, show mercy and kindness to all of the believers.

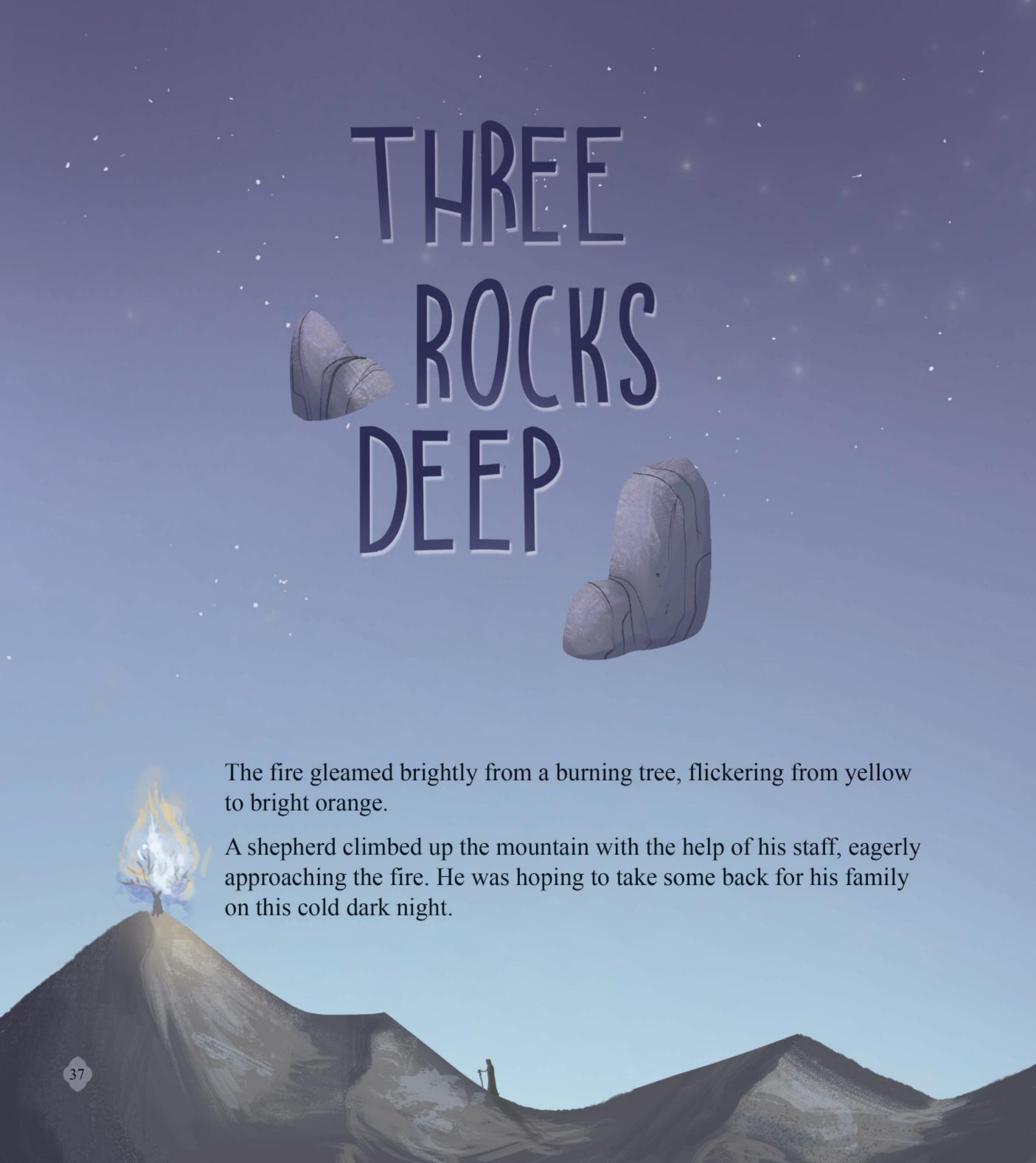


Then, the ant and Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) bid farewell to each other and went on their way.

As the ant made her way to see all of her 135 sisters, she was already eager and excited to fulfill her special duty the next day.

Source: Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 14, P. 97-98

THREE ROCKS DEEP



The fire gleamed brightly from a burning tree, flickering from yellow to bright orange.

A shepherd climbed up the mountain with the help of his staff, eagerly approaching the fire. He was hoping to take some back for his family on this cold dark night.

The higher he went, the quicker his heart started beating. He had a feeling that something great was about to happen. Indeed, something great did happen!

Shortly after he reached the fire, he heard a voice call out:

O Mūsā! Indeed, I am your Lord, and I have chosen you as My Prophet.*

Then, Allah commanded,

Throw down your staff!

And he did.

Hiss!

The staff turned into a gigantic, slithering snake! The snake hissed again, sticking out his long, pink tongue. When Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) picked it up, it turned back into the staff.

*ū is an elongated "o" sound, like "oo"

Then he heard the voice again: *Now, place your hand under your armpit.*

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) eagerly obeyed Allah, and when he took out his hand, it shone like a bright white star.

Then, Allah commanded him: *Go to Pharaoh and invite him to the truth.*

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) knew that the Pharaoh was a very stubborn person. He would not easily accept his message. So, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) prayed sincerely to Allah for help.

"O the Lord of the worlds!

O the hope of the worried ones!

The crimes of the Pharaoh are many,

And his men spare no lives!

They see no justice,

They hear no truth, and

The believers are only a few.

So I have hope in only You.

I am honored to fulfill this special task—
To carry out what You have asked:
Invite the Pharaoh to the truth
Even if he disapproves.
It is not my life that I fear, but
O my Creator
Should the Pharaoh harm me,
then, my family—
what will happen to them?
They need me to provide them
with food, shelter, and love.
After me, who will take care of them
when things get too tough?"

Suddenly, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) heard the voice again:

O Mūsā, strike your staff on this rock!

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) immediately obeyed the orders of Allah.

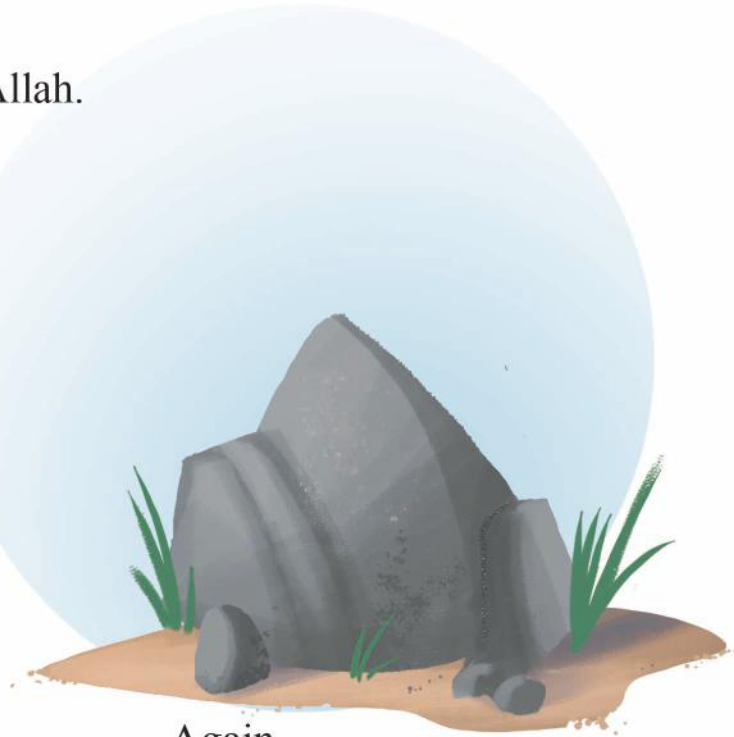
Strike! Clang! Clang!

Strike! Clang! Clang!

BANG!!!

The rock split open.

Inside it: a second rock.



Again...

Strike! Clang! Clang!

Strike! Clang! Clang!

BANG!!!

The rock split open.

Inside it: a third rock.

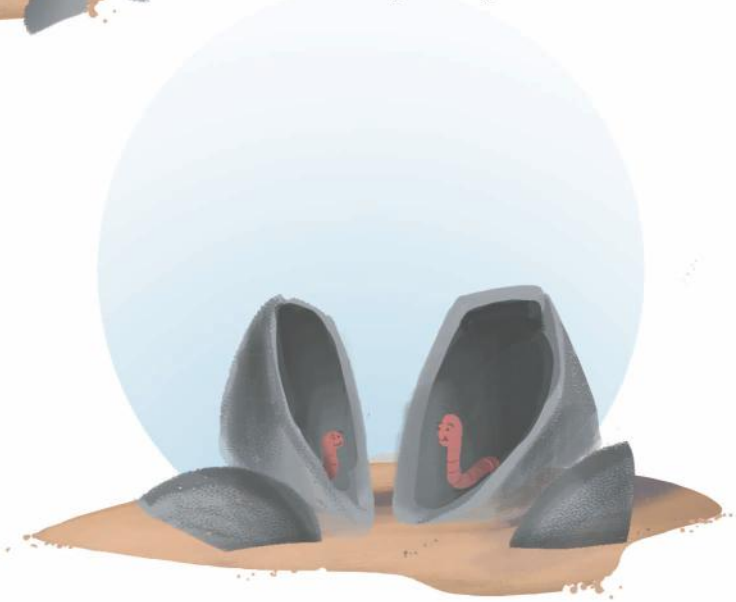
And once again...

Strike! Clang! Clang!

Strike! Clang! Clang!

BANG!!!

The rock split open.



Inside it: a worm and his family.

As Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) looked closely, he noticed that the worm was chewing something in his mouth. He was surprised! *Hmm...how was this little worm able to find food all the way down there?!* He wondered curiously.

Just then, Allah allowed Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) to hear the words of the worm.

سُبْحَانَ مَنْ يَّسْمَعُ كَلَامِي وَ يَعْرِفُ مَكَانِي وَ يَذْكُرُنِي وَ لَا يَنْسَانِي

Amazing and Perfect is the One who hears my words, knows where I am, remembers me, and does not forget me.

Upon hearing the beautiful words of the worm, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) was in awe. Of course it is Allah who takes care of all His creations, even a tiny worm underneath three rocks! With a heart full of tawakkul and trust, he went on to defeat the Pharaoh and invite the people of Egypt to the right path.

When things seem too hard,
Remember this in your heart:
Allah is always there for you;
He's the One who'll get you through!
He knows what is best
And gives us nothing less!
He helps us to face our fears;
Surely, He is always near!
Allah is All-Merciful!
Allah is All-Kind!
We rely only on You,
O Creator of mankind!

Source: Tafsīr Rūḥ al-Bayān, Vol. 4, P. 96-97

Glossary

(ʿaj): May God, the Exalted, hasten his noble reappearance

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon him and his family

(swt): Glorified and Exalted is He

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

Al-Fātiḥah: The first sūrah of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāhi rabbil ʿālamīn: All praise is for God, Lord of the worlds

Fī amānillāh: (I leave you) in the trust of God

Marḥūm(īn): Someone(s) who has passed away

Salāmun ʿalaykum: Peace be upon you

Subḥānallāh: All glory and praise belongs to God

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God (Allah)

Wa ʿalaykum salām: And peace be upon you, too

Does He Remember Me?

What would you do if you saw an ant walk toward the ocean, enter the mouth of a frog, and disappear into the deep blue water—only to come back out a few minutes later?! A strange sight indeed!

Prophet Sulayman (a) sees exactly this as he is sitting by the seaside. Being a Prophet who can speak to all creatures, he decides to investigate!

Find out what Prophet Sulayman (a) asks the ant, and the surprising answer he receives!

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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